Rajyasevapravina M. K. Nilakanta Aiyar: (*a*) Volumes I, III and IV of the State Manual have been published. Volume II is under scrutiny.

(*b*) Rs. 24,858.

(*c*) Rs. 4,239.

(*d*) Yes.

Price of Rice.

88. ***Mr. K. M. Kesavan:** Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether the price of rice in the State is rising gradually ; and

(*b*) if so, what measures have the Government adopted to control it ?

Mr. S. Ramakrishna Aiyar: (*a*) Some increase in the price of rice is noticed from February onwards in the markets of the State. This is only in keeping with the higher rates in outside markets from where rice is largely imported.

(*b*) (i) With the aid of reports and weekly reviews of the prices prevailing in different centres of the State, Government have been periodically fixing the maximum prices for different varieties of imported rice based on the ruling market-price at Cochin ;

(ii) Complaints of profiteering on the part of merchants having come to the notice of Government, Press Notes were issued from time to time warning the public against alarming reports, and at the same time reminding the merchants that in cases of profiteering Government will be forced to take steps under the Defence of Travancore Rules. Necessary instructions have been issued to the police officers and the situation is being closely watched;

(iii) Instances of speculative capitalists making large purchases of paddy and rice from Travancore with a view to profiteering having come to the notice of Government, export of paddy and rice from the State on a commercial basis has been restricted to prevent abnormal rise in prices ;

(iv) Government have stocked some rice, both from Burma and South Indian Districts, as a measure of control of prices, and these are available for sale to the public at reasonable rates ; and

(v) Government are keeping a careful watch over the situation which is well under control.

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